

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SAM-01 SSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /129 W

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O R 261040Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9186

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHAI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7543

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN CABINET CHANGES

SUMMARY. NEW EGYPTIAN CABINET PROMOTES HEGAZI TO PRIME MINISTERSHIP, (VICE SADAT) AND CONTAINS CHANGES IN FIVE MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS RELATIVELY MINOR IN THEMSELVES BUT FOR IMPORTANT REASONS, CHIEFLY A) DISASSOCIATION OF SADAT FROM PROBABLE INABILITY OF NEW CABINET TO SOLVE QUICKLY GRAVE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND B) REMOVAL OF TWO MINISTERS WHO HAD BEEN CONDEMNED BY PARLIAMENT AND PRESS AS INCOMPETENT. MAJOR POSITIONS OF INTERIOR, WAR AND FOREIGN
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AFFAIRS ARE UNTOUCHED. OTHER CHANGES, INCLUDING GOVERNORATE

RESHUFFLE ARE EXPECTED. END SUMMARY.

1. NEW EGYPTIAN CABINET, ANTICIPATED FOR PAST MONTH, WAS ANNOUNCED SEPT 25 AND IS BANNERED IN SEPT 25 PRESS. ABDEL AZIZ HEGAZI, AS EXPECTED, HAS BEEN NAMED PRIME MINISTER (A POSITION PREVIOUSLY HELD BY SADAT). MINISTER OF WAR (AHMAD ISMAIL), WIDELY REMOVED TO BE TOO ILL TO CARRY ON, HAS RETAINED HIS POSITION, AS HAVE FAHMY AND SALEM, IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERIOR. ASSUME FBIS WILL CARRY FULL CABINET LIST.

2. FOUR TECHNICAL MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS HAVE BEEN SHIFTED: HEALTH, SUPPLY, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY. OF THE FOUR OUTGOING MINISTERS, TWO (MIN INDUSTRY MOHAMMADEIN AND MIN SUPPLY MAGHRABI) HAVE BEEN UNDER HEAVY ATTACK IN PRESS AND PEOPLES ASSEMBLY FOR INABILITY TO DEAL WITH DOMESTIC SUPPLY AND ECONOMIC SITUATION; AND 26 SEPT PRESS CARRIES STORY OF WATER POLLUTION PROBLEM WHICH CAN BE LAID AT DOOR OF EX-MIN OF HEALTH MAHFUZ, THEREBY JUSTIFYING HIS DISMISSAL. ALTHOUGH COTTON WORM PROBLEM OF PAST SUMMER APPEARS TO HAVE BEN SATISFACTORILY HANDLED, EX MIN AG ZAKI HAS ALSO BEEN CRITICIZED FOR MISHANDLING OF THAT AFFAIR AND HAS BEEN LET GO. ONE NEW PORTFOLIO HAS BEEN CRETED, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION, TO BE LED BY HEAD OF ARAB-INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGENCY, TAHIR AMIN.

3. ABOVE DISMISSALS ARE CLEAR ATTEMPT BY SADAT TO PLACE BLAME FOR SERIOUS PROBLEMS OF SUPPLY AND ECONOMIC/INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT ON MINISTERS, TO REMOVE HIMSELF FROM THEIR PAST FAILURES AND, POSSIBLY FROM FUTURE ANTICIPATED ONES IN SAME AREAS. AT THE SAME TIME, PROMOTION OF TAHER AMIN TO MINISTERIAL POSITION GIVES SADAT COMFORTABLE DISPARITY OF VIEWPOINT BETWEEN ECONOMIC LIBERALS, (AMONG WHOM AMIN CAN BE COUNTED) AND SOCIALISTS (SUCH AS PLANNING MINISTER ABDALLAH) PERMITTING HIM TO PURSUE EITHER LAISSEZ-FAIRE ECONOMIC POLICIES OR MORE CLOSELY CONTROLLED ONES, AS CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT.

4. NEW CABINET WILL TAKE OATHS TONIGHT, AND WILL BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING SIX TASKS OUTLINED IN LETTER OF INSTRUCTION FROM SADAT TO HEGAZI, AS PUBLISHED BY PRESS.

A. TO CONTINUE TO PLACE COUNTRY ON WAR FOOTING, SINCE WAR
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IS NOT ENDED.

B. TO BE GUIDED BY OCTOBER PAPER

C. TO CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT ON SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC PLAN TOWARDS WELFARE SOCIET.

D. TO IMPLEMENT (ECONOMIC) "OPEN DOOR" POLICY.

E. TO PROTECT EGYPTIAN PEOPLE FROM HIGH COST OF LIVING AND PROVIDE THEM WITH ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS OF LIVING.

F. TO MAINTAIN RESPECT FOR LAW, INVIOABILITY OF PUBLIC

FUNDS, AND INTEGRITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES.

5. SEPT 26 AHAM REPORTS THAT A LIMITED RESHUFFLE OF
GOVERNORS IS EXPECTED. WE BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE OTHER,
MINOR, CHANGES AS NEW CABINET SETTLE IN.
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